

December 7, 2020



# Planning Department Newsletter

## OPEN GOVERNMENT FOR THE CITY OF PULLMAN'S PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Open Government for the City of Pullman's Planning Department

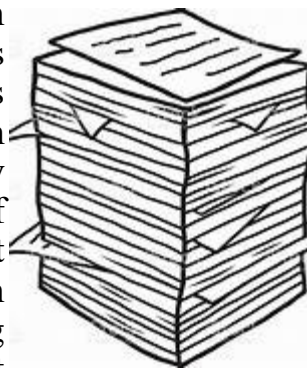
Open government is most generally described as the right of the public to have access to documents, information, proceedings, and other data that can allow for essential oversight of all forms of government. In other words, it is the elimination of non-essential government secrecy. Governments, even those that are local, should strive for inclusiveness and accountability, especially when public access to information is involved.

The City of Pullman Planning Department, has officially adopted this doctrine of open government. Many individuals, myself included, feel that transparency is often credited with creating local government accountability. Planning documents and projects should not, and have not, been exempt from this requirement. The spread of information leads to a wider and more comprehensive understanding of the processes of Pullman. In turn, this can lead to an increased level of

trust between City staff and various stakeholders. A continuous, open government also creates an additional level of trust between coworkers.

With an ongoing functional open government policy, Pullman's Planning Department seeks to change the current and future public opinion of the organization for the better. With this adoption, the staff at City Hall will be tasked to create a timeline for change that is realistic, accountable, and fulfills the purpose of the ultimate goal. Naturally, this timeline can be made public, with the promise of deliverables that stakeholders can tangibly see City improvement. Incremental change in a positive direction is critical to the Planning Department's success.

The requirement of transparency from the public is not new. In fact, transparency has been a concept that has been around for decades, if not centuries. The need for information will not be disappearing any time soon. If 2020 has been any indication, the desire for an open



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government could not be higher. In general, government transparency is essential for an efficient democracy. This inclusion assists stakeholders in the process of creating educated conclusions about Pullman's direction.

The growth of the Internet over the last two decades is an essential tool in formulating a procedure to put information in the public's view efficiently, quickly, and without unreasonable costs to taxpayers. Technology that can instantaneously produce information on the City's website is a crucial part of Pullman's success in 2021 and beyond. In the world of land use planning, information regarding complete applications has been published on the City's website thus reducing the need for those that are interested in

community development from completing a request for public records. Eliminating barriers and other roadblocks to information is the main driver of an open government organization.

Continuing an open government is less about being innovative and creative and more about meeting the requests of various stakeholders. Providing information in a timely manner is a basic responsibility that local governments have not been proficient enough to fulfill the desires of the public. Now is as great of a time as ever to finally complete the tasks that have been before governments of all sizes. Simply put, placing the needs of those that the City of Pullman serves is absolutely crucial. This is not a "nice to have", but rather a "must have" that has been long overdue.



### Pending Land Use Proposals

Displayed below are land use applications submitted for planning department action or city-generated proposals for planning provisions that require a public meeting, public notice, or site plan review in accordance with the city code.

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	STATUS
Comprehensive Plan Revision	full-scale revision of city's Comprehensive Plan	Citywide	draft plan released 6/16/20; CC discussion on 6/23/20; PC discussions on 6/24/20 & 7/22/20; HPC discussion on 7/13/20
Animal/Fowl Zoning Code Amendments	amend code related to keeping of chickens and miniature pigs	Citywide	PC held discussions at 3/27/19 and 4/24/19 meetings; PC recommended approval on 12/18/19; CC action forthcoming
Small Cell Facilities Zoning Code Amendments	revise code to provide for small cellular network equipment	Citywide	PC hearing continuance scheduled for 4/22/20 was canceled; further action forthcoming
Hearing Examiner Zoning Code Amendments	amend code to establish a hearing examiner system	Citywide	CC discussion forthcoming
Bishop/Crithfield Annexation	annex 106 acres of land into the city	southeast of intersection of S Grand Avenue and SW Golden Hills Drive	PC hearing scheduled for 12/16/20
Nelson Partners Annexation	annex 48.33 acres of land into the city	east of Johnson Road	PC hearing scheduled for 12/16/20
Brelsford Harvest Drive Street Vacation	petition for vacation of right-of-way	a portion of Harvest Drive	PC hearing scheduled for 12/16/20
S. Grand Business Park Subdivision Preliminary Plat	divide 8.99 acres into 9 commercial lots	south of the intersection of S Grand Avenue and SE Fairmount Drive	PC hearing scheduled for 12/16/20





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*Continued from previous page*

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Elevate Student Housing Conditional Use Permit Application (C-19-3)	develop 292 apartments and commercial parking on 4.9-acre site with variances involving number of parking stalls, parking area dimensions, building height, and floor area ratio	1200 block of SE Johnson Avenue	applicant revising application materials
Elevate Student Housing Shoreline Permit Application (No. 97)	develop 292 apartments and commercial parking on 4.9-acre site near South Fork of Palouse River	1200 block of SE Johnson Avenue	applicant revising application materials
Elevate Short Plat Application	divide 4.9 acres into two lots	1200 block of SE Johnson Avenue	staff reviewing application
T-Mobile Wireless Facility site plan (19-16)	install 35-foot-tall cell tower and ground equipment	2992 NE Airport Road	staff asked applicant to revise site plan
Hilltop Suites site plan (20-1)	construct building and parking to provide apartments/hotel rooms	310 NW Old Wawawai Road	staff asked applicant to revise site plan
Maple Street Apartments site plan (20-2)	demolish existing residence and construct 4-plex	970 NE Maple Street	staff reviewing revised site plan
Annex Apartments site plan (20-4)	develop 204 apartments on a 9.7-acre parcel	1555 NE Northwood Drive	staff reviewing revised site plan
Aspen Heights Apartments site plan (20-5)	develop 196 apartments on a 23-acre property	southeast of intersection of N Grand Avenue and Albion Drive	staff approved site plan 11/02/20
B & Harvey Triplex site plan (20-12)	convert existing duplex into triplex, increasing the number of bedrooms by 4	1110 NE Harvey Drive	staff asked applicant to revise site plan
SEL Parking Lot – Lot 2 (20-14)	15,170 square foot asphalt parking lot with sidewalk and stormwater runoff systems	Lot 2, Port of Whitman County Industrial Park Subd. No. 2	staff asked applicant to revise site plan
Beta Theta Pi Fraternity Life Safety Upgrades (20-15)	780 square foot egress stair upgrade and addition	820 NE Linden Street	staff reviewing revised site plan

KEY TO ZONING DISTRICTS: R1 Single Family Residential; RT Residential Transitional; R2 Low Density Multi-Family Residential; R3 Medium Density Multi-Family Residential; R4 High Density Multi-Family Residential; C1 Neighborhood Commercial; C2 Central Business District; C3 General Commercial; I1 Light Industrial; I2 Heavy Industrial; IRP Industrial Research Park; WSU Washington State University

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS: CC: City Council; PC: Planning Commission; BOA: Board of Adjustment; HPC: Historic Preservation Commission; DOE: State Department of Ecology; DAHP: State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

NOTES: 1) If an applicant fails to act on a pending application for a period of six months, said application will be dropped from the above list. 2) Numbers in parentheses are planning staff's internal file numbers. 3) Site plan review by city staff is generally conducted for proposed construction of developments other than single family homes, duplexes, or manufactured homes; it does not apply to most construction on the WSU campus.







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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

**[WWW.PULLMAN-WA.GOV](http://WWW.PULLMAN-WA.GOV)**

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